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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JULY 24, 2008 WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/ALS CONTACT: TOMMY LOFTIS PHONE: (251) 415-7131

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DEFENDANT INDICTED ON FIREARM CHARGE FOLLOWING FELONY DRUG CONVICTION

Project Safe Neighborhood Prosecution

Robert Wayne Imel, of Mobile, has been indicted on a charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The Indictment charges that Robert Wayne Imel was previously convicted of Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine in federal court for the Southern District of Alabama and of Theft of Proerty, First Degree in Mobile County Circuit Court in 2002. By virtue of these convictions, and Imel's resulting status as a convicted felon he is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. Imel is alleged to have possessed a Marlin .22 caliber rifle on May 22, 2008.

Possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon is a violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 922(g)(1). The statutory maximum penalty provided by law is 10 years imprisonment.

As in all criminal cases, the Indictment returned by the Grand Jury is only a charge and the Defendant is presumed innocent.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force. The case will be prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Alabama.